

Ask the Consul: Recent Changes in the Consular Section

You may have noticed there have been a few changes to the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru. We would like to use this opportunity to share with you what these changes are, and what that means for you, potential visa and American Citizen Services applicants.

Going “Paperless” – Few documents needed for visa interviews

The U.S. visa application– especially for tourist visas– is interview-based rather than document-based. While there are a few specific visa classes that require some documentary support (i.e. student visas and visas for minors), tourist visas do not. Except for those documents specifically requested under other visa classes, you do not need to bring documents related to your trip to the interview unless you are traveling for business and your employer is paying for your trip. If the interviewing officer would like to request a specific document from you, they will do this during the interview. While we would like to make the interview process as free of documents as possible, we do recommend bringing to your interview prior passports containing previous U.S. visas or showing international travel.

Please note that visa fixers or touts are individuals who claim to have documents and packages that will help you get a visa are often outside the Embassy. Not only do you not need the documents or packages they want to sell you but purchasing and presenting these documents to a consular officer will diminish the likelihood of your getting a visa and may lead to a life-long visa ineligibility.

CEAC – Online Application

Applicants applying for a non-immigrant visa at the Embassy in Lima are now required to use a new online application that has been developed to simplify the visa application process and to make it faster and more secure. The new DS-160 application offers three principal benefits. First, it eliminates the three application forms (DS-156, DS-157 and DS-158) previously in use and combines them into a single form. Second, properly completed forms and uploaded applicant photos can be submitted and processed prior to the visa interview thereby reducing wait time. It is recommended that your application be submitted at least two days prior to your visa interview appointment. Finally, you need only print and bring with you to the interview the application confirmation sheet and one 5cm x 5cm (2”X2”) photograph if the printed confirmation page does not show your photograph.

Photo Vendor at the Embassy

A photo vendor is now available in the Embassy waiting area for immigrant and non-immigrant visa appointments (after passing through security) between 07:30 and 15:00. The vendor’s services are meant to be a convenience to our applicants whose photos were unable to upload into CEAC as well as for any other services sought which require photos (such as U.S. passport applications). Additionally, the photo vendor located within the Embassy is a safe and secure alternative to the touts located directly outside the Embassy who are known to offer fraudulent goods and services, which can diminish the likelihood of an applicant receiving a visa.

Coming Soon – Notary Appointments

The American Citizen Services (ACS) section of the Embassy offers many services to Americans as well as non-Americans; one of the most widely used is Notary services. The ACS section will be redesigning the notary process so that there is a shorter wait time and more efficient process. While these changes have yet to be defined, stay tuned to our [ACS webpage](#) for further updates!